



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2004

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COMMISSIONER ABERNATHY REACTS TO LINE-SHARING AGREEMENT REACHED BY COVAD AND QWEST

Washington, DC — Commissioner Abernathy issued the following statement today:

“The line-sharing agreement announced today by Qwest and Covad is another encouraging sign that commercial negotiations can produce important pro-competitive and pro-consumer outcomes. Such agreements also eliminate the need for continued litigation over access obligations, and thus provide increased certainty to a turbulent marketplace.”

“Line sharing allows facilities-based competitors such as Covad to provide DSL service over the same line that is used by the Bell company to provide local telephone service. It represents an efficient means of boosting facilities-based competition and increasing broadband penetration. Ever since the Commission eliminated its line-sharing mandate, I have been hopeful that competitors would be able to obtain access to the Bell companies’ networks on commercially reasonable terms. I applaud Qwest for embracing this wholesale market opportunity, and I encourage other incumbent LECs to develop comparable line-sharing arrangements.”

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